Memo re: CE 3067 3/14/68

It took me about 1½ yrs to locate Mrs Hoover and Mrs Kauffman due to the fact, as they later told me, the FBI had given them so much trouble over the incident that they had gotten unlisted telephone numbers and refused to talk about the incident with anyone but those in their immediate family. Mrs Kauffman told me that this all had a contributing effect to their decision to move away from Martinsburg Pa. where the incident took place. She told me that the FBI had been unnecessarily rough with them and basically given her mother the choice of admitting that she was a little crazy and had made the whole thing up, or to be indicted for giving false information to federal authorities. (They took her before a magistrate to scare her.) This enraged her since her husband had already gone to the FBI and said that they would just like to forget the whole thing and let it go at that, and he told the FBI where to get off. According to Mrs Kauffman, the reason that her husband wanted to forget it was that the FBI was presuring them and he didn't think it was worth the hasted, especially since they couldn't see how the piece of paper or the Fernandez's could have had any connection to the assassination. It was just all too fantastic.

About 8 months ago I located the Kauffman's in a suburb of Frederick Maryland, just east of Frederick. I have no address for them and was unable to find one, so my only contact has been through a telephone call placed by me after many hours of friutless searching in the Frederick area. Their telephone number (use same area code as for Frederick, MD) is 874-2667. Mrs. Kauffman stated that because she was generally under pressure at the time, when her mother showed her the piece of paper in question she did not look carefully at it and the only thing she can remember for sure was on it was the name "Jack Ruby." The rest she agreed to because she was interviewed with her mother present and did not want to upset her since the agents would have probably pressured the mother if Mrs. Kauffman had not backed her up. (The FBI report was written as though they were interviewed separately, but Mrs. Kauffman said that such was not the case.) After a lengthy discussion with Mrs. Kauffman about her mother's psychological status at the time, I reassured her as a psychologist that her mother's behavior was no different from that of the average woman going through menopause and that it provided no reason as far as I was concerned for her to have made up the story. Furthermore, Mrs. Hoover <u>believed</u> that her daughter had seen the paper and remembered what was on it, so it would have been sure folly to have made up such a story. Mrs Kauffman, after extensive questioning, could give no reason to suppose that her mother had made the story up and admitted that the only reason they had doubted the story was that they couldn't believe that anyone in Martinsburg could have been involved in the assassination.

I finally contacted Mrs. Hoover 7 months ago and subsequent to that contact have received a letter from her. (I have sent her copies of articles on the assassination by myself from a magazine and a feature series which ran in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune.) She currently lives at 105 South Walnut Street,

Martinsburg, Pa., the address at which she was living at the time of the assassination, although in the years following the assassination she has not always been at that address. Her unlisted telephone number is 793-3515. There is no address on her apartment whose entrance is at the top of a flight of steps at the rear of a garage which is the first building on the east side of South Walnut Street. (I earlier sent a message to Jim Garrison that the address did not exist since not only couldn't I find it, but none of the neighbors seemed to know where it was and gave me the impression that it was nonexistent.)

Mrs. Hoover's reproduction of the paper is attached. She said that the handwriting was beautiful with very round letters, so that she assumed that it was a woman's handwriting. The note had the names: Rubenstein, Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, Silver Slipper, Club Room, Dallas Texas, and a 7 digit telephone number which had all high numbers (all above 5). This is contrary to the FBI report which stated that it was a 6 digit telephone number and that the name of the night club was unrecalled. (Although they credit Mrs. Kauffman with remembering it as the Silver Bell or Silver Slipper.) On the back was an ad for Ken Craft trailers in Kentucky. She showed me where this was found and said that she found it either in the last week in Sept. or the first week in Oct. (FBI report states 3rd week in Oct.) She was raking leaves at the time and thought it was one of the pieces of paper which periodically blow over from where her neighbors, the Fernandezes, improperly burned their trash. She picked it up and was attracted by the name Ruby since her husband had just left her and was going out with other women. She at first thought that this was a note of his until she noticed that the full name was Jack Ruby and she remarked that she thought that it was funny that his last name was the same as a girl's first name. She later showed the paper to her daughter, Mrs. Kauffman, as a curisosity item. The last she saw of it, it was laying around the house and she thinks that her daughter's kids may have taken it to draw on. (She reported that they freqently do this with stray pieces of paper.) After the assassination and her bout with the FBI, Mrs. Hoover stated that she decided to keep an eye on the Fernandezes and that from time to time she picked papers out of their trash and kept them. When she had quite a pile of them (including names, addresses, etc.), she sent them to Senator Scott of Pa. from whom she got a nice thank you letter which she showed me. The letter said that her papers were forwarded to the "appropriate authorities." A month before I reached her she sent another pile of them to Jim Garrison, and I sent Vince Salandria a message to ask if they had ever arrived. Apparently they never did. I feel that they probably were sent, principally because she had previously sent a pile of such items to Senator Scott and could prove it. The only two things she had left are a used ticket from the Silver Slipper club and a folder from the Mirage Motel with the Silver Slipper Club checked on a map of the strip in Las Vegas. (I examined Mrs. Hoover's shopping lists posted on the wall and it is noteworthy that her method of making a check mark is markedly dissimilar to the check on this folder.) These items are attached to this report. I have contacted

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the Silver Slipper in an attempt to date this ticket, but have been

unsuccessful thus far. I have been unable to contact the performer Hank Henty for the purpose of dating the ticket but this area of investigation is as of yet unfinished. (These documents are attached to this memo.) In a letter sent to me last October, Mrs. Hoover enclosed a piece of a note which had been torn up and that is attached to this memo. The only other remnant of the Fernandez family she had left was discarded a long while ago. It was a telephone book which had "negro" written next to many of the names in it.

Info relating to Fernandez:

1. Mrs. Hoover stated that she had no idea what their political views were since they never discussed politics but that their younger son once got into a fight at school about something political. She said that the neighbors were at first under the impression that they liked Kennedy because Julio Fernandez Jr., the eldest son, who was a "talented artist," once drew a beautiful likeness of the President. One evening, however, one of the neighbors looked in a window and saw them throwing darts at it. She stated that they were always quite nice to everyone.

2. Prior to the assassination, groups of Cubans came periodically to Martinsburg to meet with Mr. Fernandez. On most occasions he and they stayed down at the motel in town, despite the fact that the house which they were renting from Mrs. Hoover (her old family home) was quite large. (It's three stories and appears to have lots of rooms.) They came in cars which were usually splashed with mud and appeared to have been driven a long way. On some occasions they stayed in the family's house, but if they were there they made attempts to hide their identity from the neighbors. For example, the neighbors found that if they called on the Fernandezes when the Cubans were there, they would hear a scurry of feet after they rang the bell and when they went in the house there would be no one there but the Fernandezes. On at least one occasion, the Fernandezes denied that they had any guests, despite the fact that people were walking around upstairs. (They claimed that it was only the kids.) On one occasion, Mrs. Hoover claims to have come in unexpectedly while a "bunch of Cubans were meeting in the living room." They all covered their faces and left the room. She is sure she can identify one of them if she ever sees him again since he was an ugly brute with a scar over one eye. She says that she'll never forget him because he looked so dangerous and mean.

3. On the day of the assassination, Mrs. Fernandez had a "nervous breakdown" and couldn't go out of the house for a week.

4. Following the assassination, no more Cubans came except for one occasion when Mrs. Hoover was aroused by noises out in the yard at about 1:00 AM. She saw Cubans carrying boxes out of the Cellar and loading them into their car.

5. Sometime after the assassination the family decided to re-tile the kitchen floor, even though the tile was in great shape, because they didn't like the color combination. Mrs. Hoover naturally assumed from this that they were planning to stay a while and were thus investing money in the house. A week later, however, they made a weekend trip to N.Y., and after returning burned all their papers. A week later they were gone. I was unable to find out what Dr. Fernandez gave as an excuse for quitting his job at Martinsburg Cove, Jr. High, but will keep trying.

6. My investigation has finally located Dr. Julio Cesar Fernandez. After leaving Martinsburg his next address was RD #1 Greeves Road, Box 356, New Hampton, N.Y. 10958. His current address is PO Box 587, Goshen, NY 10924. His phone number is unlisted.

This is all my material to date. The only thing I have on the Cubans besides what is in the EBI reports is that the son, Julio Cesar Fernandez, does a good deal of traveling. I have leads to the current addresses of the son and others in the family and will report them if and when I can establish them. This is a very delicate area of inquiry since these people have been through quite a lot and are suspicious of anyone interested in the assassination. I would appreciate it if you let me handle this until I get all the info I need since establishing both contact and rapore has been exceedingly difficult over these past severql years and I would rather not start taking chances now.

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